

Maine Maritime Academy, to sustain the historic art of sailing. Additionally, for the 2008 Olympics, Sea Bags created a line of totes to support the quest of New England sailors Andy Horton and Brad Nichol, pledging \$40,000 to help send the athletes to Beijing.

Hannah Kubiak and Beth Shissler have offered a vivid example of the difference a small business can make in a community locally, and globally, through a noble devotion to social responsibility. It is evident that through their distinctive dedication to promoting recycling and assisting charities, they have started a trend in responsible entrepreneurship that other small companies will surely emulate. I sincerely thank Ms. Kubiak and Ms. Shissler and everyone at Sea Bags, Inc. for their continued service to the State of Maine, and offer my best wishes for their future success.●

TRIBUTE TO ASHLEY VAN DEN TOP

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Ashley Van Den Top, an intern in my Sioux Falls, SD, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several months.

Ashley is a graduate of Western Christian High School in Rock Valley, IA. Currently she is attending National American University, where she is majoring in paralegal studies. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Ashley for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

RECOGNIZING DAKOTA BUSINESS FINANCE

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Dakota BUSINESS Finance, a company in South Dakota being awarded as the Certified Development Company of the year by the U.S. Small Business Administration. Dakota BUSINESS Finance will be presented with this award as part of the U.S. Small Business Administration's Small Business Week in Washington, DC, on May 23–25.

Since becoming a certified development company, Dakota BUSINESS Finance has become one of the fastest growing certified development companies in the Nation. Dakota BUSINESS Finance has created nearly 500 jobs after processing more than \$45 million in approved SBA 504 loan applications to more than 50 applicants. The 504 loan program provides a number of financing options for businesses that are looking to procure land or other types of fixed assets.

Dakota BUSINESS Finance has also been recognized with the Asset Builder Award for Federal Fiscal Year 2009 by

the South Dakota Small Business Administration's District Office. This award is for the largest approved loan volume for a certified development company in South Dakota in 2009. Dakota BUSINESS Finance has come a long way, and I look forward to their continued success.

It is organizations such as Dakota BUSINESS Finance that keep South Dakota small businesses growing and flourishing. So it gives me great pleasure to commemorate Dakota BUSINESS Finance on this special occasion and wish them continued successes in the years to come.●

RECOGNIZING SIOUX FALLS NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize the Sioux Falls National Weather Service, a public weather informer that has been serving the U.S. since 1870.

Volunteers began making weather observations in the Sioux Falls area in 1890 creating the basis for the Sioux Falls station. From its first local forecast to the public in 1955 to the harsh weather South Dakota experienced this past winter, the station has kept State residents apprised of current conditions.

There is a strong need for the weather service to effectively communicate information to the public regarding storms, floods, wildfires, tornados, hail, and blizzards. The Sioux Falls National Weather Service provides these advisories for the area to keep families safe and informed.

The Sioux Falls National Weather Service played a vital role in helping the news media inform South Dakotans about the snow storms that hit South Dakota last winter. I would like to offer my appreciation to the staff at the Sioux Falls Weather Forecast Office for their devotion to residents during times of critical need.●

TRIBUTE TO HENRY SHELTON

● Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, today I wish to honor a Rhode Islander who has devoted his life to improving the lot of others. For decades now, the name Henry Shelton has rung out as a clarion for social justice and equality in our Ocean State. He is and has always been a voice for the little guy—the homeless veteran, the hungry child, or the underpaid laborer.

Most folks in Rhode Island know Henry as the founder and coordinator of the George Wiley Center, a nonprofit antipoverty organization based in Pawtucket. But before that, Henry was a Catholic priest for 16 years, during which he began organizing needy Rhode Islanders in Providence to elect leaders responsive to their needs. In 1973 he left the church to marry his beloved Carol, a former nun who shared his passion for advocacy.

Ever since then, Henry has been “raising hell,” as he might say, and

fighting for Rhode Island's overlooked and underpaid. In 1974 he started the Coalition for Consumer Justice and in 1981 founded the George Wiley Center. Over the years Henry has organized sit-ins, battled budget cuts, fasted to get clothes for children on welfare, advocated to keep electricity rates down for low income residents, and even been arrested for disorderly conduct—a fact which may amuse those who know Henry as a peaceful and gentle man.

And last year, Henry fought through his toughest battle yet. Just before the New Year, Henry suffered a serious stroke which landed him in the hospital. Anyone with a friend or family member who has experienced a stroke knows that the recovery is often a slow and painful process, but none of this stopped Henry. In fact, the headline in the Providence Journal following his hospitalization read: “Advocate for the poor, Henry Shelton, suffers stroke—but continue work from hospital.” The paper went on to report that Henry organized a State house rally from his hospital bed.

This is the Henry I know, and who we in Rhode Island have known and loved for many years. This Monday in Rhode Island, the Fund for Community Progress will present Henry with its Profile in Courage Award, which the organization describes as a “distinctive honor for those who have dedicated their lives to creating positive change in the community.” Henry Shelton has generated enough positive change in his life to satisfy that requirement many times over.

And so today, Mr. President, I would like to thank Henry Shelton for a lifetime of selflessness and courage, and for always being a voice for those who needed one most.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 12:18 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 5147. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and